

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095276

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE AND DIA INFO ABU DHABI, AMMAN,
DHAHRAN, JERUSALEM, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS,
TEL AVIV, USUN AND USCINCEUR FROM BEIRUT MAY 17, REPEATED
TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5713

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY SITREP 20

SITREP 20

1. SITUATION AT 1430 Z QUIET THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. CURFEW LIFTED
AGAIN TODAY FROM 0600 TO 1900 LOCAL, BUT SCHOOLS REMAIN CLOSED.

2. DESPITE REPORTS (LARGELY PREMATURE) OF IMMINENT GOL-
FEDAYEEN AGREEMENT, ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES HAVE NOT
RELAXED EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS MENTIONED OUR
PREVIOUS SITREPS. WE UNDERSTAND TOTAL OF 28
PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND INTERROGATED HERE MAY 16, INCLUDING
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4 AMERICANS PICKED UP (BUT LATER RELEASED) FOR VIOLATING CURFEW PLUS NUMBER OF SYRIANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS WHO FOUND TO BE PRESENT IN LEBANON ILLEGALLY. PRESS REPORTS, CITING OFFICIAL SOURCES, CLAIM SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS IN LATTER CATEGORY HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY AND THAT AROUND 35,000 OTHER SYRIANS (MOSTLY MANUAL LABORERS) HAVE LEFT VOLUNTARILY SINCE MAY 2. GOL SECURITY MEASURES ALSO HAVE HAD SPIN- OFF IN ANOTHER IMPORTANT RESPECT, SINCE INTERROGATION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS (APPARENTLY PALESTINIANS) POSSESSING ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES WHO WERE PICKED UP IN POLICE DRAGNET HAS ENABLED GOL IDENTIFY THEM AS HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN APR 14 SABOTAGE OF TAPLINE FACILITIES AT AZHRANI.

3. ON POLITICAL FRONT, MIXED GOL- FEDAYEEN COMMITTEE FORMED TO NEGOTIATE NEW FORMULA FOR FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN LEBANON IS CONTINUING MEET TODAY. SEVEN AND HALF HOUR SESSION MAY 16 REPORTEDLY INVOLVED DETAILED DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN " BASIC ISSUED" (E. G., PRESENCE OF HEAVY WEAPONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS), AND ARMY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT MIDNIGHT INDICATED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND ATMOSPHERE REMAINED " POSITIVE" . WHILE MUCH OF LOCAL PRESS HAS JUMPED TO CONCLUSION THAT " FULL" AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED OR IS AT LEAST IMMINENT, WE GATHER THAT NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES HAVE YET TO BE RESOLVED AND THAT NEGOTIATING PROCESS IS FAR FROM COMPLETION. HOWEVER, OUR BEST CONTACTS IN ARMY AND PRESIDENCY SAY RELATIONS BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN DEFINITELY IMPROVING AND THAT THERE COULD BE AN AGREEMENT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. IT APPEARS FEDAYEEN ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK FOR SOME SORT OF FACE- SAVING ACCOMMODATION SINCE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE RALLY INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL SUPPORT THEY HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO WITHSTAND FRANGIE' S FIRMNESS AND GOL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN INSISTING THAT IT SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SOME OF RIGHTS TO CONTROL PALESTINIANS WHICH SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB STATES HAVE. AS IN PAST, FEDAYEEN PROBABLY ALSO THINKING THAT THEY CAN AFFORD GIVE CONCESSIONS ON PAPER TO GOL AT PRESENT WITH EXPECTATION OF GETTING THEM BACK THROUGH CHEATING ON IMPLEMENTATION AND COUNTING ON GRADUAL SLACKENING OF GOL ATTENTION AND DETERMINATION SUPERVISE AGREEMENT CLOSELY. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT GOL WILL, AS PREDICTED, KEEP ANY UNDERSTANDING OR AGREEMENT SECRET (AS WILL FEDAYEEN), BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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GOL MUCH MORE AWARE THAN IN PAST THAT VALUE OF UNDERSTANDING IS IN ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN WHAT IS PUT ON PAPER. IT MAY BE THAT TIGHTER CONTROLS WILL BE MAINTAINED HENCEFORTH OVERMOVEMENTS OF ALL PEOPLE IN LEBANON, INCLUDING FEDAYEEN, ALTHOUGH NOT SO TIGHT AS RIGHT NOW. ON OTHER HAND, FEDAYEEN SOURCES ARE SAYING (PRIVATELY) THAT NO RPT NO AGREEMENT IS NEAR

ON FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF DISARMAMENT AND CONTROL OF CAMPS.

4. WELCOME NOTE OF OPTIMISM WAS SOUNDED EVENING MAY 16 BY KAMAL JUMBLATT PRIOR TO DEPARTING (IN ITSELF A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT) FOR INDIA TO TAKE UP HIS ANNUAL SPIRITUAL EXERCISE THERE. HE DECLARED HIMSELF SATISFIED THAT CRISIS WAS ON ROAD TO SOLUTION, THAT FIGHTING WOULD NOT BE RESUMED, AND THAT NEW LEBANESE CABINET WOULD BE FORMED SHORTLY. HE EVEN EXPRESSED HOPE " OUR SYRIAN BROTHERS WILL APPRECIATE OUR SITUATION AND HELP US SOLVE CRISIS BY NOT ALLOWING MORE FEDAYEEN TO ENTER LEBANON". EVEN SOVIET AMB AZIMOV, ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR, TOLD ' ARAFAT AND SALAH KHALAF MAY 16 HE PLEASED AT PROGRESS OF GOL- FEDAYEEN NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE HE FEARED ISRAEL MIGHT PICK THIS TIME TO ATTACK SOUTH LEBANON. AZIMOV REPORTEDLY ADDED USSR WAS PRESSING USG TO RESTRAIN ISRAEL FROM ANY ACTION, INCLUDING STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA, THAT MIGHT COMPLICATE SITUATION IN LEBANON.

5. THERE IS MUCH SPECULATION ABOUT FORMATION NEW GOVT, BUT PRESIDENT SEEMS STILL DETERMINED WORK OUT BASIC AGREEMENT WITH FEDAYEEN FIRST AND APPOINT GOVT SECOND. FRONT- RUNNER FOR POST OF PRIME MINISTER SEEMS TO BE AMIN EL HAFEZ, WHOSE RESIGNATION NOT YET ACCEPTED AND COULD THEREFORE BE RETRACTED A SECOND TIME. EVEN SHOULD HAFEZ RETURN THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A RESHUFFLE OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS.

6. AIRPORT STILL OPEN AND OPERATING NORMALLY. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS STILL SAFE, AS ARE MEMBERS AMERICAN COMMUNITY.
HOUGHTON

UNQUOTE RUSH

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